

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

AGR-20 EB-11 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 IO-13

IGA-02 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 L-03 RSR-01 /128 W

----- 024177

O R 071008Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2449

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

COMUSMACTHAI

DIA WASHDC

SECDEF

USAAG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 8114

FOR STATE/AID

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, EAID, CB

SUBJ/ RICE SITUATION

REF: PHNOM PENH 8009

1. THE FOLLOWING IS A PROJECTION OF THE RICE SITUATION IN PHNOM
 PENH COVERING THE PERIOD FROM AUGUST 4 THRU AUGUST 16, 1973

	8/4	8/5	8/6	8/7
BEGINNING STOCK	25,990.9	27,469.3	27,469.3	26,857.5

ROUTE 5	2,139.8#	-	-	-
TOTAL AVAILABLE	28,130.7	27,469.3	27,469.3	26,857.5
LESS DISTRIBUTION	649	-	597.4	520
BALANCE	27,481.7	27,469.3	26,871.9	26,337.5
LESS ADJUSTMENT	12.4		14.4	
BALANCE	27,469.3		26,857.5	

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	8/8	8/9	8/10	8/11
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BEGINNING STOCK	26,337.5	25,817.5	26,797.5	26,277.5
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ROUTE 5	-	1,500	-	-	
TOTAL AVAILABLE	26,337.5	27,317.5	26,797.5	26,277.5	
LESS DISTRIBUTION	520	520	520	520	
BALANCE	25,817.5	26,797.5	26,277.5	25,757.5	

8/12	8/13	8/14	8/15
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BEGINNING STOCK	25,757.5	26,737.5	26,217.5	25,697.5
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ROUTE 5	1,500	-	-	-	
TOTAL AVAILABLE	27,257.5	26,737.5	26,217.5	25,697.5	
LESS DISTRIBUTION	520	520	520	520	
BALANCE	26,737.5	26,217.5	25,697.5	25,177.5	

8/16

BEGINNING STOCK	25,177.5
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ROUTE 5	-
TOTAL AVAILABLE	25177.5
LESS DISTRIBUTION	520
BALANCE	24,657.5 - 47.4 DAYS

#THIS INCLUDES 16,419 BAGS OF PADDY EQUIVALENT TO 704.9 M/T RICE.

A) IN THE EVENT ROUTE 5 IS CLOSED: 21,657.5 AT 520 - 41.6 DAYS.

2. RICE PRICES. OPEN MARKET PRICES FOR RICE HAVE DIPPED SLIGHTLY SINCE PARA. 2 REFTTEL. VARIOUS GRADES OF RICE WERE AVAILABLE IN UNITS OF 100 KG., BUT BROKENS 1/2 AND BROKENS 3/4 COULD ONLY BE PURCHASED IN UNITS OF 15KG. OR LESS.

8/7/73	GKR			
RICE	1 KG.	15 KG.	100 KG.	100 KG.
1/15	75	1,100	6,800	5,700
1/25	70	1,080	6,200	5,500

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1/50	60	900	5,900	5,000
BROKENS 1/2	60	900	-	3,700
BROKENS 3/4	50	700	-	2,500

3. RICE DISTRIBUTION. RICE DISTRIBUTIONS FROM AUGUST 4 AND AUGUST 6 WERE 649 M/T AND 597 M/T RESPECTIVELY. THERE WAS NO DISTRIBUTION ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 5. THE AVERAGE RATE SINCE JUNE 20 IS 468 M/T PER DAY AND THE RUNNING TEN DAY AVERAGE IS 384 M/T PER DAY.

4. RICE AIRLIFTS. RICE AIRLIFTED DURING THE PAST 72 HOURS AMOUNTS TO THE FOLLOWING NUMBER OF SORTIES AND METRIC TONS:

KOMPONG THOM	SVAY RIENG	KOMPONG CHAM
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8/4 GKR	2 - 5.8	6 - 20.5	6 - 40.3
AIR AMERICA	NA	9 - 52.0	NA
USAF	NA	NA	3 - 34.0

8/5 GKR	3 - 8.6	6 - 20.5	3 - 20.9
AIR AMERICA	NA	9 - 52.0	NA

8/6 GKR	3 - 8.5	2 - 6.0	3 - 21.7
AIR AMERICA	NA	7 - 40.4	NA

THE THREE USAF SORTIES TO KOMPONG CHAM ON AUGUST 4 PROVED CONCLUSIVELY THAT C-130'S ARE NOT SUITED FOR THIS PARTICULAR RUN. EVEN WITH LIGHT LOADS ON THAT DAY, THE AIRCRAFT CAUSE ADDITIONAL DAMAGE TO THE ALREADY WEAK RUNWAY. THE DECREASE IN THE NUMBER OF SORTIES FLOWN BY AIR CAMBODGE TO KOMPONG CHAM ON AUGUST 5 AND 6 RESULTED FROM 2 DC-4'S BEING GROUNDED FOR REPAIRS. NEVERTHELESS, WITHIN A DAY OR SO AIR CAMBODGE IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF ITS DAILY SORTIES TO TEN FOR A TOTAL OF 70 M/T, AND THUS PERMIT THE GKR TO ACHIEVE ON ITS OWN THE GOAL OF A 30-DAY SECURITY STOCK IN KOMPONG CHAM BY SEPTEMBER 1.

A GKR DELEGATION FROM THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR IS EXPECTED TO RETURN TOMORROW FROM KOMPONG THOM AND KOMPONG CHAM WITH A FULL REPORT ON THE RICE STOCK SITUATION AND PRICES C TRGED TO CONSUMERS IN THESE TWO BESIEGED TOWNS.

5. THAI RICE. FOLLOWING MAJOR GENERAL THAPPANA NGINN'S APPARENTLY CONFIDENTIAL

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SUCCESSFUL TRIP TO THAILAND, LY KIM HENG HAS LEFT FOR BANGKOK TO COMPLETE NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE 5,000 M/T OF BROKENS AS WELL AS ATTEMPT TO SPEED UP THE SHIPMENT OF THE THAI RICE. THUS FAR THE THAI SHIP COMPANY HAS LOCATED ONLY ONE SHIP AND IN THE EVENT OTHERS ARE NOT IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE THE GKR IS HOPEFUL THAT IT CAN USE VESSELS UNDER ITS CONTROL. IN EITHER EVENT IT APPEARS UNLIKELY THAT ANY OF THE THAI RICE PURCHASED THUS FAR WILL REACH PHNOM PENH BEFORE AUGUST 15.

6. ROUTE 4. ROUTE 4 REMAINS OPEN AND ENEMY STRENGTH ALONG THE ROAD HAS APPARENTLY DIMINISHED DURING THE LAST FEW DAYS. UNFORTUNATELY, GOVERNMENT STRENGTH ON ROUTE 4 HAS ALSO DIMINSHED SINCE REACTION FORCES IN KOMPONG SPEU WERE MOVED INTO PHNOM PENH TO STRENGTHEN THE DEFENSE OF THE CITY. THE LOSS FO THESE UNITS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY WEAKEN THE GOVERNEMENT'S ABILITY TO REACT TO ANY FUTURE ENEMY ATTACK ALONG THIS STRETCH OF THE ROUTE.

7. ROUTE 5. ROUTE 5 REMAINS OPEN AND A RICE CONVOY ARRIVED IN PHNOM PENH ON AUGUST 5 WITH 1,267 M/T OF RICE AND 16,410 BAGS OF PADDY (704.9 M/T OF RICE WHEN MILLED). IN A MANNERSIMILAR TO ROUTE 4, THE GOVERNMENT IS PLANNING TO MOVE UNITS FROM ALONG ROUTE 5 INTO PHNOM PENH TO BOLSTER DEFENSE OF THE CITY. IT IS NOT KNOWN HOW LONG ROUTE 5 WILL REMAIN OPEN

ONCE THESE UNITS ARE MOVED. ACCORDING TO THE PRESENT SCHEDULE, ONE RICE CONVOY FROM BATTAMBANG IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN PHNOM PENH ON AUGUST 9 AND ANOTHER ON AUGUST 12. WE ESTIMATE THAT EACH CONVOY WILL HAUL IN RICE AND PADDY THE EQUIVALENT OF 1,500 M/T OF RICE AND THAT BETWEEN THE TWO THEY SHOULD BRING MOST OF SORAPA'S AND SATRAR'S PRESENT STOCKS TO PHNOM PENH. THE SIZE AND COMPOSITION OF THE CONVOY SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN PHNOM PENH ON AUGUST 16 WILL DEPEND ON SECURITY ALONG THE ROAD AND SORAPA'S ABILITY TO BUY MORE RICE QUICKLY.

8. THE NEXT RICE REPORT WILL BE ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 10.
ENDERS

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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